

Message Text

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ACTION AEC-11

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-14

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 RSC-01 SCI-06 SCEM-02 EPA-04

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FM AMCONSUL BOMBAY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4141

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH IN

SUBJ: REGULATORY STANDARDS FOR NUCLEAR POWER

REF: BOMBAY 2362

1. HAVE JUST RECEIVED LETTER DATED DEC 17 WITH NINE DOCUMENTS ENCLOSED FROM AEC CHAIRMAN SETHNA WHICH CONSTITUTES PROMISED INTERIM RESPONSE REQUEST I ADDRESSED TO HIM DECEMBER 11, MC BASIS DELHI 14364. LETTER QUOTED HEREAFTER WITH OPENING/CLOSING ETC DELETED. ENCLOSURES WILL BE FORWARDED WASHINGTON BY NEXT UNCLASSIFIED POUCH.

2. QUOTE - I SEND HERewith SOME OF THE INFORMATIONS YOU HAVE ASKED FOR. I SHOULD REQUEST YOU IN THIS CONNECTION TO APPRECIATE THAT ATOMIC ENERGY OPERATIONS AND ITS CONSEQUENT HEALTH ASPECTS ARE ATTENDED TO BY ONE GOVERNMENTAL AGENCY IN THE COUNTRY (VIZ. THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY) DERIVING ITS AUTHORITY FROM THE ATOMIC ENERGY ACT. AS A RESULT, FORMULATION OF OUR RULES AND REGULATIONS HAS NOT ALWAYS BEEN FOLLOWED BY FORMALISATION THROUGH GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION. SOME OF THE ESSENTIAL ONES FOR EXAMPLE RADIATION PROTECTION RULES HAVE BEEN FORMALISED BY A NOTIFICATION IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA GAZETTE, DATED OCTOBER 30, 1971. I ATTACH A COPY OF THE SAME FOR YOUR READY REFERENCE (DOCUMENT NO. 1).

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QUOTE - FOR FORMULATION OF RULES AND REGULATIONS IN DIFFERENT AREAS,

WE HAVE ESSENTIALLY TWO PROCEDURES E.G. (I) THROUGH STUDIES CONDUCTED BY INDIVIDUAL OR GROUPS OF SCIENTISTS AND (II) THROUGH STUDIES CONDUCTED BY APPOINTED COMMITTEES E.G. FOR SITING POWER REACTORS WE APPOINT A SITE SELECTION COMMITTEE OF TECHNICAL EXPERTS. TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC CRITERIA EVOLVED BY THE COMMITTEE FOR SELECTION OF POWER REACTOR SITES ARE ENUMERATED IN THE ATTACHED DOCUMENT ENTITLED 'INTERIM REPORT ON SELECTION OF SITES FOR FUTURE ATOMIC POWER STATIONS - PART I - INTRODUCTORY SITING CRITERIA' (DOCUMENT NO. 2).

QUOTE - COMPARISON OF SOME OF OUR STANDARDS AND THE STANDARDS ADOPTED IN DIFFERENT COUNTRIES ARE DISCUSSED IN ANOTHER DOCUMENT ENTITLED 'SYSTEMATICS OF REACTOR SITING' (DOCUMENT NO. 3). I HAVE SIDELINED PORTIONS OF THIS DOCUMENT TO INDICATE OUR STANDARDS AND PRINCIPLES AS EVOLVED BY THE TECHNICAL PEOPLE. THESE STANDARDS ARE SUBSEQUENTLY REFLECTED OFTEN WITH SOME MODIFICATIONS IN THE NATIONAL SAFETY MANUALS.

QUOTE - 'MAXIMUM PERMISSIBLE LEVELS OF SURFACE CONTAMINATION' (DOCUMENT NO. 4) AS ANOTHER EXAMPLE COMPARES THE LEVELS FOLLOWED IN THIS COUNTRY WITH THOSE IN OTHER COUNTRIES (SEE APPENDIX I & II). STANDARDS FOLLOWED IN URANIUM MILLS IN OUR COUNTRY ARE GIVEN IN 'HEALTH PHYSICS SURVEY OF JADUGUDA URANIUM MILL AND ITS ENVIRONMENT' (DOCUMENT NO. 5) - SEE PAGES 24-25). SOME OF THE SPECIAL CONDITIONS FOLLOWED FOR TRANSPORT OF URANIUM CONCENTRATES BY RAIL ARE ALSO GIVEN IN THE ANNEXURE A - PAGE 97-99, OF THE SAME DOCUMENT. A COMPREHENSIVE DOCUMENT DEALING WITH THE TRANSPORT OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS IS BEING UPDATED AND FINALISED NOW. I HOPE TO SEND YOU A COPY AS SOON AS IT IS READY.

QUOTE - 'SECONDARY STANDARDS DERIVED FROM ICRP & IAEA BASIC SAFETY STANDARDS' (DOCUMENT NO. 6) GIVE THE BASES OF COMPUTATIONS OF SECONDARY STANDARDS FOR USE IN THE COUNTRY. DIFFERENCE BETWEEN INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS AND DERIVED INDIAN STANDARDS ARE GIVEN IN PAGE J/6.

QUOTE - OUR APPROACH FOR EVALUATION OF LIMITS FOR RADIONUCLIDES IN AQUATIC ENVIRONMENT FOR CONTROL OF RADIOACTIVE WASTE RELEASES TO THE AQUATIC MEDIUM IS DISCUSSED IN 'AQUATIC POLLUTION CONTROL SYSTEMATICS FOR DISCHARGE OF RADIOACTIVE EFFLUENTS' (DOCUMENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NO. 7).

QUOTE - IN RESPECT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY IT HAS BEEN OUR POLICY TO LOCATE ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEY LABORATORIES AT ALL MAJOR NUCLEAR INSTALLATION SITES RIGHT FROM THE PLANNING STAGE CONTINUING THROUGH THE CONSTRUCTION PHASE TO OPERATIONAL PHASE. COMPREHENSIVE STUDIES CARRIED OUT IN THE ENVIRONMENT OF A POWER REACTOR AS AN EXAMPLE IS GIVEN IN THE REPORT 'DISPERSAL AND UPTAKE OF RADIO-

ACTIVE ELEMENTS IN THE TARAPUR ENVIRONMENT' (DOCUMENT NO. 8).
I REQUEST YOUR ATTENTION IN THE FIRST INSTANCE TO PAGES 1 TO 4
OF THE REPORT, WHEREIN THE AUTHORS STATE THE TERMS OF REFERENCE
FOR WORK IN SUCH A LABORATORY.

QUOTE - YOU MAY OBSERVE FROM DOCUMENTS NO. 2 AND NO. 8 THAT WE ARE
REQUIRED TO PREPARE REPORTS ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT AT ALL
STAGES OF OPERATION FOR OUR MAJOR INSTALLATIONS. THE PAPER ON
'NUCLEAR OPERATIONS IN RURAL INDIA AND CONSERVATION OF AQUATIC
ENVIRONMENT' (DOCUMENT NO. 9) SUMMARISES THE ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPACT STUDIES THAT ARE CONDUCTED AT THE NUCLEAR INDUSTRIAL
SITES AS A NORMAL PROCEDURE. I REQUEST YOUR ATTENTION TO THE
ABSTRACT OF THE PAPER.

QUOTE - AS STATED EARLIER THE FORMALISATION OF STANDARDS AND
REGULATIONS ARE PROGRESSIVELY BEING TAKEN IN HAND. HOWEVER,
FROM THE FEW PUBLICATIONS CITED ABOVE, YOU WILL APPRECIATE
OUR APPROACH IN THIS FIELD ALTHOUGH THESE ARE NOT NECESSARILY
FINAL. THESE ARE REVIEWED FROM TIME TO TIME IN THE LIGHT
OF NEW INFORMATIONS THAT BECOME AVAILABLE. I AM SORRY THAT I
COULD NOT SEND YOU THE ANSWERS IN THE FORM YOU DESIRED TO HAVE
THEM. SIGNED SETHNA. UNQUOTE.

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